

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KABUL 05452 051322Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----020722 051328Z /47

O R 051238Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8908
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KABUL 5452

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, AF
SUBJ: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S TRIP: TALKING POINTS FOR HIGH
LEVEL CALLS

1. I APPRECIATE THAT BRIEFING PAPERS FOR UNDER
SECRETARY NEWSOM'S VISIT TO KABUL HAVE PROBABLY
BEEN COMPLETED, CLEARED, AND ARE WAITING ON HIS
DESK. AT THE RISK OF BEING MUCH TOO LATE TO HAVE
ANY INPUT IN THAT EXERCISE, I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER
SOME THOUGHTS ON TALKING POINTS MR. NEWSOM MIGHT
CONSIDER IN HIS FORTHCOMING TALKS WITH PRESIDENT
TARAKI AND FONMIN AMIN. THESE ARE:

A) A REITERATION OF THE THREE PILLARS OF U.S.
POLICY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN: SUPPORT FOR AFGHANISTAN'S
INDEPENDENCE AND GENUINE (NOT CUBAN-TYPE) NONALIGN-
MENT; SUPPORT FOR AFGHANISTAN'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT; AND OUR INTEREST IN REGIONAL PEACE AND
STABILITY.

FURTHER TO THE FIRST POINT, THAT MR. NEWSOM
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MENTION THAT IF AFGHANISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY IS
INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THAT OF THE SOVIET UNION (OR
CUBA), THIS IS OBVIOUSLY GOING TO AFFECT THE ATTITUDE
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND ITS GOVERNMENT TO AFGHAN-
ISTAN. THAT WE WISH TO CONTINUE OUR HISTORICAL
FRIENDSHIP WITH AFGHANISTAN, BUT THIS WILL OBVIOUSLY
BE COLORED IF AFGHANISTAN IS PERCEIVED AS BEING IN

MOSCOW'S ORBIT. SHOULD TARAKI AND AMIN REACT TESTILY TO THIS, ASSERTING THAT THEY ALWAYS ARRIVE AT THEIR FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS INDEPENDENTLY, MR. NEWSOM MIGHT POINT OUT THAT WHILE THIS MIGHT BE SO, ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE NOTED THE SPECIAL PLACE THE DRA HAS GIVEN TO THE SOVIET UNION IN ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS; THAT, SINCE THE APRIL 27 REVOLUTION, KABUL HAS SIGNED ALMOST THIRTY AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND VERY FEW WITH OTHER COUNTRIES; THAT BETWEEN 2,000 AND 3,000 SOVIET MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ADVISERS ARE IN COUNTRY; AND THAT KABUL HAS WELCOMED CLOSE TIES WITH TWO OF MOSCOW'S CLOSEST ALLIES -- EAST GERMANY AND CUBA. WHAT AFGHANISTAN DOES IS ITS OWN BUSINESS, BUT THE SECURITY INTEREST OF THE U.S. IS OUR BUSINESS, AND THAT WE AND THE U.S. WILL BE CLOSELY FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

ON THE SECOND POINT, THAT WE HOPE TO CONTINUE ECONOMIC AID TO AFGHANISTAN AND THAT INCLUDES PEACE CORPS HELP IF AFGHANISTAN WISHES IT.

ON THE THIRD POINT, MR. NEWSOM MIGHT EXPRESS HOPE FOR MODERATION ON THE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE AND REITERATE OUR RECOGNITION OF THE DURAND LINE AS THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BORDER BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. IN THIS REGARD, AMIN IS LIKELY TO
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PLAY DOWN THE STATEMENTS MADE IN MAY BY THE FRONTIER AFFAIRS MINISTER THAT THE DURAND LINE IS NOT RECOGNIZED BY THIS GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE INDUS RIVER IS THE PROPER BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. FURTHERMORE, AMIN MAY ALLUDE AGAIN TO OUR RECENT PANAMA CANAL TREATIES AS THE KIND OF "PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT" THE AFGHANS SEEK ON THIS ISSUE.

B) THE TARAKI REGIME AS STATED, AD NAUSEAM, THAT THE FRIENDSHIP IT EXTENDS TO OTHER COUNTRIES WILL BE PROPORTIONAL TO THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT OTHER COUNTRIES GIVE IT. IF THIS POINT IS RAISED, MR. NEWSOM SHOULD POINT OUT THAT FRIENDSHIP IS A TWO-WAY STREET AND THAT AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP TO AFGHANISTAN WILL ALSO BE PROPORTIONAL TO THE FRIENDSHIP AFGHANISTAN EXTENDS TO THE U.S. AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT IS NOT A SOVIET SATELLITE.

C) A REITERATION OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE HUMAN RIGHTS PLAYS IN OUR OVERALL FOREIGN POLICY, AND EXPRESS HOPE THAT THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT WILL PURSUE POLICIES WHICH WILL PROTECT AND GUARANTEE THE RIGHTS OF ALL AFGHAN CITIZENS.

AT THIS MOMENT, WE DO NOT KNOW THE OUTCOME OF THE JUST COMPLETED (JULY 3) VISIT TO KABUL OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS RE-

PRESENTATIVE,

MR. DOMINIQUE BOREL, ON THE LIBERATION OF THE MANY DETAINED POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. I HOPE THAT THE TARAHI GOVERNMENT MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH MR. BOREL TO EVACUATE THESE DETAINEES FROM AFGHANISTAN. SINCE THE SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED BY FONMIN AMIN WITH ASST. SECRETARY SAUNDERS IN NEW YORK CITY AND THEN WITH AMBASSADOR ELIOT HERE LAST MONTH, MR. NEWSOM COULD MENTION OUR INTEREST AND COULD APPEAL ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS FOR URGENT AND COMPASSIONATE TREATMENT.

D) EXPRESS U.S. CONCERN OVER THE EXTENT OF ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION IN AFGHANISTAN, AND URGE THE NEW LEADERSHIP TO MOVE AHEAD IN CONJUNCTION WITH INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, WITH NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS.

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E) INFORMATION WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MR. NEWSOM ELICITING FROM TARAHI AND AMIN ARE:

-- HOW TARAHI AND AMIN PERCEIVE THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR FOUR NEIGHBORS? HOW THEY THINK THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION?
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL05452
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780275-1071
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780796/aaaadclz.tel
Line Count: 144
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d810fc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2117278
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S TRIP: TALKING POINTS FOR HIGH LEVEL CALLS
TAGS: OVIP, PEPR, AF, (NEWSOM, DAVID D)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d810fc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014